Remarks/Arguments:

The present invention relates to a floating head slider for use in a disk drive apparatus such as a magnetic disk drive apparatus.

An exemplary embodiment of the present invention is illustrated in Applicants' Fig. 1. Fig. 1 includes first air bearing part 2, second air bearing part 3, positive pressure generating parts 4, 5, side rail parts 13, and outside side rail parts 14. As illustrated in the attached exhibit to this amendment, air flows past the first air bearing part and reaches a positive pressure generating part.

Claims 1-5 and 8-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kang (U.S. 7,099,114). It is respectfully submitted, however, that Applicants' claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

> ... one of the side rail parts, one of the outside side rail parts and one of the pair of positive pressure generating parts ... are positioned ... so that air flowing ... past said first air bearing part ... reaches said one of the pair of positive pressure generating parts.

As stated above, this air flow is illustrated in the attached exhibit.

A marked-up copy of Fig. 8A of Kang, the cited prior art reference, is attached to this amendment as an exhibit. As shown, air flow does not reach a portion of Kang which is analogous to Applicants' positive pressure generating parts. Rather, because of the configuration of Kang, air flows past any structure which could arguably be analogous to Applicants' positive pressure generating part.

As explained in Applicants' specification at page 19, lines 6-14, because of the above claimed features, a positive pressure can be generated more effectively. Also, when an external impact is applied as shown in Applicants' Fig. 3B, the pressure in the positive pressure area 22 generated by first border part 9 and second border part 10 increases. This causes head slider 1 to float with no collision against recording medium 30. Thus, head slider 1 is supported

by air bearings and positive pressure areas 22. This is illustrated in Applicants' Fig. 3 and is described in Applicants' specification at page 21, lines 16-24.

Because Kang does not include a configuration which allows air to reach a structure which is analogous to Applicants' positive pressure generating part, the advantages described above with regard to Applicants' invention are not obtained. Kang's negative pressure generating pocket 280 which is described in his patent at col. 6, line 56 - col. 7, line 8 as a completely function and does not achieve Applicants' advantageous results.

Accordingly, Applicants' claim 1 is patentable over Kang.

Claims 2-11 are patentable by virtue of their dependency on allowable claim 1. Claim 12 is newly added. New claim 12 recites the features of one of the pair of positive pressure generating parts being "open-ended to the air inflow end side." This feature is described in the originally filed application at page 18, lines 7-14. Also, as illustrated in Applicants' Fig. 1, new claim 12 recites the feature of the inner planes of the outside side rail parts are disposed outside of the first air bearing part with respect to the center axis of the head slider in the longitudinal direction. No new matter ha been added.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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LEA/mjc/so

Attached: Exhibit - Fig. 8A

Dated: January 7, 2009

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EXHIBIT
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FIG. 8A

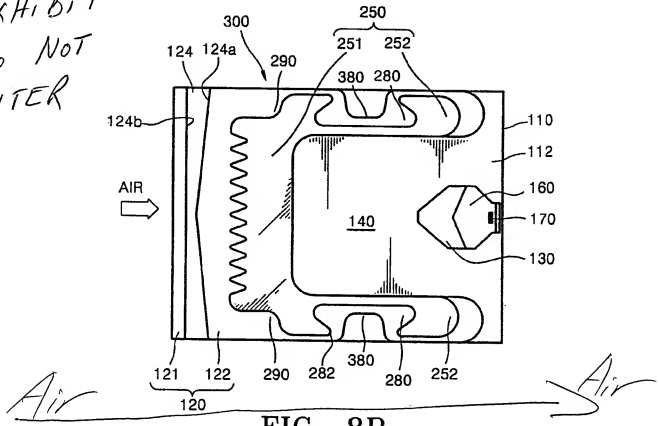

FIG. 8B